

Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert the following paragraph after the title:

This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/609,180 entitled "Distributed Network Management System and Method" filed June 30, 2000 which is incorporated by reference.

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

While the foregoing configuration is scalable, the addition of a larger number of remotes or hubs can become more complex than necessary. In that event, an additional monitoring layer can be added above the hubs. In this way, not only are remotes assigned to regions of the network, but hubs are assigned to regions of the network as well. For example, referring to FIG. 7, three regions 60, 62 and 64 are shown. Each region would include a primary and secondary hub that would be responsible for that region. For example, primary hub 66 and secondary hub 68 would be responsible for region A 60, primary hub 70 and secondary hub 72 would be responsible for region 62, and primary hub 74 and secondary hub 76 would be responsible for region 64. In turn the hubs in a particular region would be responsible for several sets of primary and secondary remotes in that region, such as set 78, 78', 78" ... in region 60, set 80, 80', 80" ... in region 62, and set 82, 82' and 82" in region 64, and each set of remotes would be responsible for a portion of the network devices therein. The data collected by the primary hubs in each region would be propagated to a primary hub aggregator 84, which in turn would propagate the data to a

secondary hub aggregator 86 for redundancy. In this way, a multi-level distributed system architecture can be achieved.

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 23 with the following amended paragraph:

In the case of a remote, state information relating to the network devices collected by monolithic server 114 is propagated to integration server 112 and then propagated to the integration server in primary hub 12, for example. Furthermore, in the case of a remote, configuration information such as the IP addresses of the network devices to be monitored is entered into integration server 110 from client terminal 92, from which it propagates down to monolithic server 112 as well as propagates up to the integration server in primary hub 12. Alternatively, configuration information can be entered into a hub, in which case the configuration information propagates down to the integration server and the monolithic server ~~n~~ in the remotes. While configuration information is entered into a dNMS kernel by a client terminal, state information for the network devices is acquired. In the preferred embodiment of the invention, state information is derived using what will be referred to herein as LTP, which is an acronym developed by the inventors herein. LTP provides for simple real time monitoring of network devices and their interfaces using ICMP, SNMP or a combination thereof, and employs a sliding window to compensate for minor interruptions in Internet links or IP traffic.